

BREWSTER, MA. - HISTORY "150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
BREWSTER BAPTIST CHURCH" 1974



150th
Anniversary
Celebration
of
Brewster
Baptist
Church



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Brewster Ladies Library
Brewster, Mass.

1824 - 1974

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS OF WORSHIP
AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Brewster Baptist Church

Brewster Ladies' Library Assn
1822 Main Street
Brewster, MA 02631

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for the 150th Anniversary Celebration Year of
the Brewster Baptist Church

Brewster, Massachusetts

In Fellowship with the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.



"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL THE LANDS!
SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!
COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING!
KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD!
IT IS HE THAT MADE US, AND WE ARE HIS;
WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, AND THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE.
ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND HIS COURTS
WITH PRAISE!
FOR THE LORD IS GOOD;
HIS STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES FOREVER, AND HIS
FAITHFULNESS TO ALL GENERATIONS."

My Village

This is the village my heart has known
Over its hills soft winds have blown,
Telling the tale of country folk
Patient and honest, but fond of a joke.
There is the steeple, high in the blue,
Of the church that faith and prayer
made true.

There are the houses, low and sweet,
There are the lanes, where happy feet
Danced to the picnics, sought
Christmas trees,

There is the pond with its memories.
There is the churchyard, holding the sun
And dreams of those whose work is done
There is the mill . . . the schoolhouse here
Softened by time, but still held dear
To hearts like mine, that find their rest
In this the village that they love best.

Oct. 1, 1956

- ELLIE N. SNOW

Sesquicentennial Activities

The Brewster Baptist Church has designated all of 1974 as a "celebration year" in honor of the 150th Anniversary of its founding on December 23, 1824. This *Anniversary Booklet* has been prepared to highlight some of the "moments" of history and nostalgia of the past, a current picture of the life of the "community of believers", and some vision for the future. A *Pictorial Directory* is being prepared, whereby there will be a "photographic" record of the members and friends of today's Brewster Baptist Church. Plans are in progress for a *Musical Program*, a *Community Barbecue* in mid-summer, an *Historical Pageant*, a *Banquet*, and some other special activities sponsored by the youth and other organizations in the church.

A "*Trading with Talents*" program will help highlight the 150th Anniversary year. Participants are given 150 pennies to be used in the spirit of the "Parable of the Talents". There will be an "ingathering" during the year when the participants will then return the 150 pennies plus any increases and share how they "traded their talents" for God and His Church. The culmination of this Sesquicentennial Celebration year will be a special *Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication* on December 15 during the morning worship hour. Dr. Harvey A. Everett, Associate General Secretary for Field Operations of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., will be the speaker, and the service will include the "*mortgage burning*", freeing the church from all mortgage debts. The Committee is grateful to all who are uniting to make this truly a year of Joy, Celebration, and Thanksgiving!

Anniversary Committee

Connie Bragg, *Chairman*

Roland Bassett

Warris Bredbury

Jeannette McLaren

Don Mills

Shirley Mills

Doris Powell

Fred Sawyer

Mary Whitlock

Cover Sketch by Melva Jimerson, Hyannis Baptist Church

Inside Art Work by Ethel Brown

Anniversary Booklet Written by Shirley Mills

Brewster Baptist Church



Pen Drawing—1973

"YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.
A CITY SET ON A HILL CANNOT BE HID.
NOR DO MEN LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT
UNDER A BUSHEL, BUT ON A STAND, AND IT
GIVES LIGHT TO ALL IN THE HOUSE.
LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN,
THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS
AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER
WHO IS IN HEAVEN."

MATT.: 5:14-16

A Word from the Pastor

"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH."

Proverbs 29:18



Rev. DONALD R. MILLS, *Pastor*

Dear Members and Friends of Brewster Baptist,

"... The end of all of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time!" T.S. Elliot

These words by one of the greatest poets of this century set forth what I feel to be the purpose of an anniversary, particularly that of a church's Sesquicentennial Celebration: to view from the standpoint

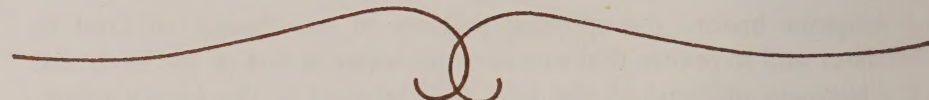
of religious history the spiritual journey of the People of God in Brewster and to realize that our strength today is due to the faith and rich heritage of those in the past who labored in the Lord's name.

Preparation for the celebration of our 150th Anniversary and for the publication of this special booklet meant that time and effort had to be spent digging into the past and reading the old church records safely stored away. What was found when the old record books were dusted off was the thrilling story of a small group of thirty-two faithful men and women, who covenanted together to begin Brewster Baptist Church.

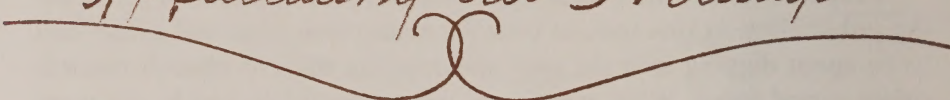
The records show the church's periods of growth and its times of dry spells when, from all outward appearances, little or nothing was happening; however, one only has to read some of the church's Annual Letters to the Association to realize the faithfulness and spiritual strength of these our spiritual ancestors. To read of the pilgrimage of this congregation over its 150 years is to rediscover the religious roots from which we grew and to realize that the taproot of this church goes deep and is firmly rooted in the faithfulness of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

If all we do, however, during this period of celebration is to honor the past, then we will be violating the rich heritage passed on to us. It is now up to the present 175 Members and nearly as many Friends of Brewster Baptist to face the obligations and opportunities that stand before us. A meaningful appreciation for the heritage of our past, coupled with a strong faith that God is also active in the present, here and now, frees us to expectantly and creatively face the future. As your Pastor, I ask you to explore with me our past so that we might realize who we are; and then realizing our heritage, we can move on to face the future faithfully.

Rev. DONALD R. MILLS, *Pastor*



Appreciating our Heritage



"THAT SAME DAY JESUS WENT OUT OF THE HOUSE AND SAT
BESIDE THE SEA. AND GREAT CROWDS GATHERED ABOUT
HIM, SO THAT HE GOT INTO A BOAT AND SAT THERE; AND
THE WHOLE CROWD STOOD ON THE BEACH, AND HE TOLD
THEM MANY THINGS IN PARABLES, SAYING: 'A SOWER WENT
OUT TO SOW. AND AS HE SOWED, SOME SEEDS FELL ALONG
THE PATH, AND THE BIRDS CAME AND DEVoured THEM. OTHER
SEEDS FELL ON ROCKY GROUND, WHERE THEY HAD NOT
MUCH SOIL, AND IMMEDIATELY THEY SPRANG UP, SINCE THEY
HAD NO DEPTH OF SOIL, BUT WHEN THE SUN ROSE THEY
WERE SCORCHED; AND SINCE THEY HAD NO ROOT THEY
WITHERED AWAY. OTHER SEEDS FELL UPON THORNS, AND
THE THORNS GREW UP AND CHOKED THEM, OTHER SEEDS
FELL ON GOOD SOIL AND BROUGHT FORTH GRAIN, SOME
A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY. HE WHO HAS
EARS, LET HIM HEAR'."

Matt. 13:1-9

This Parable that Jesus told to the crowds gathered by the sea describes His Church down through the ages, and it speaks to us of the fellowship of the Brewster Baptist Church since its inception 150 years ago to the present. The brief pages of this section of the Anniversary booklet can only touch on and highlight some of the events and experiences which make up the rich heritage we have been given. It is intended not only to share some of the events of this long period, but also to give a taste of the flavor of faithfulness which has sustained this church through periods of glory and destitution.

The early beginnings of the events leading up to the official organization of the Brewster Baptist Church take us back almost to the start of the 1800's. For many years, Rev. James Barnaby, most frequently called "Father" Barnaby, devotedly served as pastor to the West Harwich Baptist Church. In 1812, "A powerful work of grace commenced in West Harwich under the preaching of Rev. James Barnaby . . . This revival continued with almost uninterrupted interest up to the year 1819. It was one of those seasons when the Holy Spirit descends with such mighty power that His influence is felt beyond the immediate neighborhood of His incipient reception." The work soon extended to other villages and towns including Brewster, eight miles away. Prior to this time, there had been very little evangelical sentiment among the people of Brewster.

Among the converts during this period of in-gathering was Dr. Nathaniel Hopkins of Brewster. According to tradition, his wife Nancy was the first person to be baptized in this town. The couple immediately opened their house in East Brewster for mid-week meetings, at which "Father" Barnaby preached, making the trip from Harwich on horseback. Many from Brewster were converted and baptized and united with the West Harwich Church. "As might be expected. . . wherever the unadulterated gospel has been fearlessly presented, it has always been met with persecution of some form. The first revival in Brewster was not an exception. The hostility to the cause, however, spent itself in words and petty acts of spite. Once, however, "Father" Barnaby was assaulted by an unknown hand on his way home in the darkness of night. He soon freed himself from his assailant 'by dint of a firm resolution and a powerful horse'."

In the early 1820's, Rev. Otis Wing, a former resident of East Dennis, returned from New York State to teach school. He began preaching in Brewster in meetings held in private homes and schoolhouses. His labors were largely instrumental in keeping up an evangelical interest and in paving the way for the forming of a separate church. An ecclesiastical council was called and met December 23, 1824 and duly organized the Brewster Baptist Church. The council consisted of seven men: Rev. Nymphas Handy, Rev. John Peake, and Rev. Enoch Chase, all from Barnstable; Rev. Otis Wing and Job Chase, from Harwich; and Nehemiah Doane and Bangs Snow, from Chatham.

After three years of meeting without a church building, a plain structure was erected on or near the site of the present house of worship; and soon after, Rev. Amos Le Fevre was called as the first pastor.

Original Members of Brewster Baptist Church

Lucy Atwood	Sarah Harris
John Bangs	Betsey Higgins
Polly Bangs	Elizabeth Hopkins
Betsey Berry	Nathaniel Hopkins
Samuel Berry	Tabitha Hopkins
Polly Clark	Nancy Mayo
Elisha Crocker, Sr.	Didah McCloud
Sarah Crocker	Abner Robbins
Betsey Crosby	Judith Robbins
Betsey Crosby, 2d	Polly Rogers
Didah Crowell	Rhoda Sears
Hannah Crowell	Priscilla Snow
Abigail Dillingham	John Wing
Banah Eldridge	Hannah Wing
Patience Eldridge	Clarissa Winslow
Jonathan Gray	Sally Winslow

This first building served the congregation until 1860, when it was enlarged and remodeled. At this time, the organ and choir loft were at the rear of the sanctuary, but they were later brought to the front, probably in the late 1880's, perhaps as part of the changes that followed the fire of 1881. In July of that year, the steeple was struck by lightening and the church set on fire. The interior was repaired and redecorated. Later, in 1888, a baptistry was added. In 1873, the first parsonage was begun and completed the following year. In 1894, extensive repairs and additions were made.

The activity of the Holy Spirit has been evidenced many times over the years in the life of the congregation of this church, with periods of great spiritual power. There have also been long intervals of inactivity and seeming indifference to the work of the Kingdom. Attention will now be focused on a few specific instances of the quality of the spiritual life and ministry during the years prior to 1900.



Church as Remodeled in 1860

Rev. Henry Marchant served as pastor from 1829 to 1833, and he apparently was a moving force of a great revival that occurred about 1830. The congregation, through the faithfulness of the pastor and people, nearly doubled its membership, thus necessitating the adding of a new deacon, Samuel Rogers, to the two original deacons: Elisha Crocker, Sr., and Abner Robbins. An early record reports: "There was nothing unusual in the origin of this revival. It seemed to be the result of faithful preaching and Christian effort. But it is described as remarkable to the physical demonstrations by which it was accompanied. Convicted sinners were suddenly struck down as by an unseen hand . . . then as if by a sudden impulse of supernatural energy, would pass from the extreme of agony to the extreme of ecstatic joy."

Pastors of the Church

AMOS LeFEVRE		1827
HENRY MARCHANT	1830	1833
C. CLARK	SEPT. 1833	APR. 1834
HENRY MARCHANT	AUG. 1834	MAR. 1835
THOMAS CONANT	JUNE 1835	FEB. 1839
DAVID CULVER		1839
JOSHUA WHITTEMORE	1840	JUNE 1842
JAMES UPTON	1842	JUNE 1843
ENOCH E. CHASE	JAN. 1844	NOV. 1844
PHINEAS BOND	OCT. 1845	JAN. 1847
F. DAMAN	SEPT. 1847	MAR. 1852
CHARLES G. HATCH	AUG. 1854	OCT. 1855
J. H. SEAVER	APR. 1857	MAR. 1858
J. BARBER	AUG. 1861	APR. 1862
E. S. HILL	AUG. 1862	MAY 1864
J. WASSALL	1864	APR. 1866
J.B. READ	NOV. 1867	AUG. 1869
W.P. ELSDON	NOV. 1869	MAY 1873
DANIEL C. EASTON	JULY 1873	NOV. 1875
O.P. BESSEY	MAR. 1876	JULY 1878
W. H. FISH	OCT. 1878	SEPT. 1880
FRANCIS PURVIS	APR. 1881	OCT. 1883
T.B. BRIGGS	MAY 1884	AUG. 1884
J. C. LAMB	MAY 1885	APR. 1889
J. S. JOHNSON	1889	SEPT. 1890
J.B. MINER	MAR. 1891	1892
JOHN EYERS	MAY 1892	MAR. 1895
GEORGE A. MARTEL	JUNE 1895	OCT. 1896
C.C. RICHARDSON	MAR. 1897	SEPT. 1897
EDWARD A. MARTEL	SEPT. 1897	SEPT. 1898
HARRY E. HINKLEY	JAN. 1890	
HARRY E. HINKLEY	JAN. 1899	JULY 1902
E. A. CHASE	APR. 1903	MAR. 1908
E.S. COTTON	NOV. 1908	APR. 1915
FREDERICK WEBB	JULY 1915	OCT. 1916
CHARLES RICKMAN	MAR. 1917	SEPT. 1917
G. B. HURLBUTT	JAN. 1918	SEPT. 1918
D.T. RICHARDS	DEC. 1919	APR. 1921
J. D. MATTHEWS	OCT. 1921	MAY 1931
CARL LANE	OCT. 1931	JUNE 1940
WILLIAM MacLEOD	JULY 1940	SEPT. 1942
CHARLES GRIFFIN	NOV. 1942	FEB. 1944
CHARLES SANTA	OCT. 1944	DEC. 1945
CHARLES GRIFFIN	APR. 1946	OCT. 1947
KENNETH MacARTHUR	MAR. 1948	SEPT. 1950
CYRIL BENTLEY	DEC. 1950	SEPT. 1955
EDWARD A. BULLOCK	JAN. 1956	APR. 1964
EDWARD D. ELLMORE	OCT. 1964	AUG. 1969
EVERETT WASHBURN	NOV. 1969	SEPT. 1970
DAVID A. COLEMAN	SEPT. 1970	SEPT. 1972
EVERETT WASHBURN	SEPT. 1972	MAR. 1973
DONALD R. MILLS	APR. 1973	

In June of 1835, Rev. Thomas Conant began a very fruitful pastorate. The pastor's son, a youth of great promise and deep religious feelings, died the following year. The young man's confident and happy faith during his illness so deeply impressed those who saw him that a general religious awakening took place. So general were the effects produced that stores and workshops became places of prayer and religious conversation, and thirty-six converts were baptized within four months from the death of his son.

There are other periods mentioned in the records of "awakened interest", "revival", "quickenings of spiritual power", associated both with an increase in converts and a recognition of God's action in the congregational life of the church. Just to mention a few of these periods and the pastors ministering at the time: 1841 . . . Rev. Joshua Whittemore; 1856 . . . no permanent pastor, but seen as a result of a conference that was held; 1863 . . . Rev. E. S. Hill; 1867 . . . Rev. Thomas Crocker; 1869 . . . Rev. W. P. Elsdon, "a remarkable pastor, though blind"; 1885 . . . Rev. J.C. Lamb. Many of the years between, the church was supplied by students from Newton Theological Seminary or very short term pastorates.

Faith Strong Through Hardship

During these early years, two things seem to stand out that should be mentioned here. First the early Brewster Christians took their responsibility for correction and discipline seriously, as can be noted from the instances of "dismissal" from the membership because of "his or her walk". The other point is the deep faith which has sustained the church through many periods of "destitution". Below is a portion of a letter which seems to demonstrate this faith through discouragement. It was written as a report to the Barnstable Baptist Association on August 14, 1853, by Elisha Crocker, deacon.

"Dear Bretheren,

As another association year is about closing upon us, we are called to the duty and privilege of sending our delegates and letter to the Annual festival. As we could neither edify nor comfort you by a long detail of our delinquencies and unfaithfulness, we will not weary your patience with it. It would gladden our hearts could we inform you of a revival of the work of God amongst us and the conversion of sinners. But this is not the case. When we review our past history and contemplate the days of darkness, trial, and discouragements

through which we have passed, and then contemplate the mercies of God and the seasons of light, of joy, and hope afforded us, we are almost lost in wonder in view of His goodness and our own forgetfulness and ingratitude.

We are surrounded with many apparent obstructions to the cause of evangelical truth and piety. But we rejoice that the grace of God is sovereign and that His power can humble the haughtiness of man and His Spirit can enlighten and renew those which appear to be in a hopeless state. Our only hope and trust is in God."



Church and Ladies' Library on Main Street... taken near turn of The Century.

1900 Sanctuary Described

At the turn of the century, a history of the first seventy-five years was written by the pastor, Rev. Harry Hinkley, who is described as “an energetic worker with a gift of organization.” The debt was paid on the church, and a vigorous Christian Endeavor Society was begun for the young people. The spirit seemed to be good in the church. The church had been newly renovated; and below is part of a letter written in 1971 by Lucy Chapman, one of the most revered members of this congregation, who served faithfully until her death, a brief time ago. In it she describes her recollections of the interior of the church building when she was a young girl, about 1900.

“The choir loft was where it is now, but was surrounded by a deep red brocade curtain . . . on a brass rod supported by brass standards . . . The pulpit, much larger than the present one, was a wide, rather high white structure with a red velvet cushion on which lay the Bible. On the right, as one faces the pulpit, where the organ loft is now, there were pews on a lower level, the same level as the floor of the entire church, but at right angles to those on the main floor. The organ at that time was a small one at the back of the present choir loft . . . Some man or boy stood in the back and pumped it while Miss Emeline Atwood, long the organist, played. From the center of the church



Interior of Meetinghouse

hung a chandelier with places for, I think, five pretty shaped brass cups to hold the glass lamps. These lamps were kept with 'kerocine' and lighted before our evening service. On the back wall of the church hung a brass-rimmed clock. I remember Captain William Freeman, a large formidable person, would take out his watch if the sermon was becoming too lengthy, compare the watch with the time by the clock at the back, and then wind the watch. Few ministers had the stamina to continue under these conditions."

In 1912, the steeple was removed because it was unstable. A metal ceiling and a jutting addition were added. Horse sheds were built in 1915, but sold in 1924. The church was wired for electricity in 1926, and a furnace was installed five years later. It was voted to sell the parsonage in 1929, but it was kept, repaired, and sold in 1964; and the present parsonage next to the church was purchased from Franklin and Nan Harding, who are still associated with the church. The organ was "electrified" in 1932 and replaced by a new organ, purchased as part of the 125th anniversary celebration in 1949. A fire damaged the building in January of 1936, but redecoration and repairs were completed just two months later. The furnace was converted from coal to oil in 1946. In 1955, a major addition to the building added thirty-nine feet to the rear to hold classrooms and other much needed facilities.



Early Parsonage

Women Serve Faithfully

Throughout the history of Brewster Baptist Church, the women have played a very important roll, particularly the Sewing Circle, later becoming the Ladies' Aid, and also the Golden Links, which has now been in existence for twenty years. Many of the repairs and re-decoration projects in the church and parsonages have been financed or generously contributed to by the faithful members of the Ladies' Aid, which continues to be a growing and energetic organization of nearly 100 women from this church and from the community as a whole. The women have increasingly supported mission needs and ministered in a personal way to one another. The Golden Links are made up of the younger women and some of the "young in heart", their primary concerns being to provide fellowship for these women and finance the Christian Education needs of the church. Much good will has been generated through these organizations, and a great deal of appreciation for their spirit and support is felt by all who are touched by them.

A Ladies' Aid program, presented in September, 1965, by Lucy Chapman and Ethel Crocker, two of the well-remembered women, who provided leadership and inspiration for the Aid and for the church, mentions some interesting facts and incidents of the earlier activities of the Ladies' Aid. Ethel tells of her introduction to the Aid in 1926, and comments on the making of quilts: "The making of quilts was obviously a sure way of making money. Houses were heated unevenly and electric blankets were unknown . . . My sister says that her first introduction to the Aid came when, as a small child, she discovered that the tent formed by the quilt and the long dresses of the surrounding women made a perfect playhouse. There she played with her doll while the 'Aiders' knotted and chatted." In 1926, a quilt sold for \$6 . . . Today quilts are still being made and sold by the Ladies' Aid for \$75-\$100. It is also noted that in 1932-33, "a new activity in the life of our 'Aid', and calling for much time and money, has been introduced . . . the White Cross work." This work, as well as other mission endeavors, continues today.

In the history of this church, the quality of the "spiritual life" is noteworthy. J. Howard Winslow, for many years church clerk and deacon prior to the 1900's, demonstrated a positive faith in his reports, and they are filled with affirmation for both the pastors and the congregation. Moving into this century, emphasis on prayer has been a sustaining force for the church, and there has been a consciousness

of the need of supporting prayers of other Christians in other churches, especially through the Baptist Association, which incidently took on its present name "Old Colony Association" in 1963.

Following Rev. Hinkley's ministry, Rev. Ernest Chase, an "eloquent" preacher, served the church with strong support until he left to become pastor of the Unitarian Church here in Brewster. His widow lived to be nearly 101 years of age and died only a few months ago. His daughter, Evelyn Brier, continues to faithfully serve this church. Rev. E. S. Cotton, remembered as a "kindly, fatherly person, optimistic and outgoing", served as pastor from 1908-1915, until his death. He is quoted as saying of the church at that time, "It is warm-hearted and spiritual, though many members wear pessimistic eyeglasses."

Brief pastorates followed, including a period of two years when the services of Rev. D.T. Richards of the West Harwich Church were shared. In 1921, Rev. J. D. Matthews, a retired minister, served the church for many years, several months of the year, bringing a deeper spiritual life to the church. He was particularly successful with older persons; and at one time, five men, averaging 70 years of age, were baptized, the oldest being 86! During his years with the Brewster Church, evening services were revived; a barge was hired to take people to neighborhood prayer meetings; and in 1925, women were first elected to the Diaconate.

Rev. and Mrs. Carl Lane came to serve this parish in 1931 and continued until 1940. They were very active in Sunday School and youth work. In 1934, a summer vacation school was started. The Triangle Club for young people was also begun during these years. The church was strengthened in many ways by this long and faithful pastorate and by the beginning of Affiliated Memberships, opening the way for dedicated service from those of many other denominations. The church was blessed by the opportunity for one of its pastors, Rev. William J. MacLeod, to be ordained here. He served for two years (1940-42), and was followed by several brief and interrupted pastorates. Rev. Charles Griffin served and then left to become a chaplain in the service, after which he again returned for a brief time as pastor. During his ministry, special emphasis was put on ministry to youth. The Griffins return to Brewster part of each summer and worship at this church.

Church Reaches Out

During the 2½ year ministry of Rev. Kenneth MacArthur, the church celebrated its 125th Anniversary. A booklet of history was written, a prior one having been prepared at the turn of the century. Plans were also laid for bringing, through a "Displaced Persons Committee" or "Delayed Pilgrims Committee" as it was referred to later, the Stabins family, who had been living in "DP Camp Esslingen on Necker, Germany," Mr. Stabins having been born in 1873 in Latvia. This "mission outreach" ministry of Brewster Baptist Church at that time has been richly rewarded as the family claimed roots here, arriving May 9, 1950. Aleks Stabins, his wife, Ingrid, and their children are well-established members of the Brewster-Harwich communities and have made significant contributions to the church in the areas of landscaping and property improvement.

Milton E. MacGregor, church clerk for many years, deacon, finance committee chairman, and other offices, was very much involved in the process of bringing the Stabins family to this community. He and his wife, Helen, both served faithfully during their long years associated with the church. When Helen died, a scholarship was set up in her name, and many young people have benefited from this generosity. Milton still leads an interesting and active life, having remarried and presently residing at the Baptist Home of Massachusetts in Newton. He is noted for climbing Mt. Washington each year, not a bad accomplishment for a man of 89!

References are often made of "going to our Jordan" for baptismal services. For a time the baptistry was used; then when some structural changes were made in the church, the services were sometimes held at the Bay or one of the local ponds. More recently, both facilities and services have been shared with other American Baptist churches at the First Baptist Church in Hyannis.

It is impossible in a booklet covering one-hundred and fifty years to mention very many names of the "saints" of the church. A few have been pointed out in regard to particular facts being shared. Some others who seemed to have served the church for many years and contributed much to the heritage of the church are Winthrop Crocker, deacon and treasurer; his wife who served as organist; Seth Sears, who served in many capacities and helped shape the direction of the church for many years; Elise Snow, a teacher with a fine poetic talent, who wrote the poem, "My Village", about Brewster, found earlier in

the booklet; Sally Tubman, who served the church faithfully and was an inspiration to many through her eight years of blindness until her recent death; and Mabel Morse, described as one whose “faithfulness goes back many years”.

Rev. Cyril Bentley served this church for five years, beginning in 1950. He and his “gracious” wife were from England and were much beloved while here. An interesting footnote: Rev. Bentley always took off his robe when it was time for the communion service, feeling that this better demonstrated his solidarity with the rest of the people during this very special time of worship.

Following was an eight year ministry by Rev. and Mrs. Edward Bullock, after which he retired. The Bullocks live in Taunton, but always spend time on the Cape, enjoying their trailer and renewing friendships here in Brewster. His was a gentle ministry, “a very good caller in the homes of the people.” He had expertise as a photographer, specializing at that time in photographing some of the beautiful sunsets so prevalent here. His wife was outstanding in her interest and work in missions and also in her encouragement and circulation of books and reading materials among the Ladies’ Aid members. In 1956, a Junior Church program was begun. In the same year, the Brewster Baptist Church became a member of the Council of Churches.

The Rev. Edward Ellmore family moved into the newly purchased parsonage and actively engaged in the ministry and activity of the church for five years, beginning in 1964. He brought a real strength in the areas of teacher training and study groups. He was interested in the music aspects of the church services, being something of a musician himself. It was during this time that the present, talented organist, Hugo Frederickson, came to the Brewster Church. Rev. Ellmore is described as “a sympathetic person” and one active in the Council of Churches, especially in its counseling program.

Rev. Everett Washburn and his wife, Connie, retired and members of this church since 1970, have been an integral part of the life of the church. Rev. Washburn has served twice as interim, once following Rev. Ellmore’s ministry, and for a six month period following the two year pastorate of Rev. David Coleman. He is described as being “understanding and caring” in his calling. He also played a significant role in mediating differences during these changing years among the members of the congregation.

Church and Community Grow

Rev. Coleman and his wife, Audrey, carried on ministry here when the congregation was just getting into the process of dealing with change, as the community and church had an upsurge of growth. Audrey offered much in the area of religious education, directing the vacation church school while here and instituting a “creative activity” program for the youngsters. Rev. Coleman challenged the church to look outside itself in new ways and to be open to the many changes already happening in Brewster because of its growth and because of the many varied backgrounds from which new folks have come. A new ministry was begun with some of the children who have come to live for a time at the Residential Rehabilitation Centers, which care for children who are both emotionally troubled and retarded. As in any situation involving such potential for change, it has been easier for some than for others to see the positive aspects of growth and change and to appreciate the contributions of the newer families of the congregation.

Before moving on to take a look at the current life of the Brewster Baptist Church, it seems appropriate to affirm the beauty of the lives lived before which have given faithful and dedicated service and love to and through this congregation and community. There have surely been times of deep despair, struggle, and frustration, but somehow these “saints”, heretofore mentioned, and the hundreds, whose names are not in print, testify to the tremendous power for good that God has sent down to those who love and trust Him.

Celebrating the Present

“IF ANY ONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION; THE OLD HAS PASSED AWAY, BEHOLD, THE NEW HAS COME. ALL THIS IS FROM GOD, WHO THROUGH CHRIST RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF AND GAVE US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION: THAT IS, GOD WAS IN CHRIST RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF, NOT COUNTING THEIR TRESPASSES AGAINST THEM, AND ENTRUSTING TO US THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION, SO WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, GOD MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US. WE BESEECH YOU ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

In the next few pages, an attempt will be made to describe just what is happening in this “village Baptist Church” and to claim the exciting possibilities that God seems to be setting in the midst of His people here. For a number of years, there has been a growing interest in the Brewster Church by the many people moving or spending part of their time here on the Cape. Several studies have been done; and at various times, there have been recommendations to look into the possibilities of expanding both program and facilities to meet the growing spiritual and fellowship needs of the “community of believers”.

The fall of 1972 brought into being a pulpit committee, headed by Warren Price, who played a significant role along with Rev. Washburn, the interim pastor, and Gilbert Beal, the chairman of the Diaconate, in increasing the enthusiasm and interest in all aspects of the church life. A positive tone . . . one which encouraged greater responsibility in the congregation for the church building and parsonage, for the overall stewardship needs, and for an increasing awareness of the

places where this church might serve its Lord . . . was set. The congregation was challenged to be open in new ways to God's spirit. It should also be celebrated that Brewster Baptist has the unique privilege of having four retired pastors who call this their church: Dr. and Mrs. C. Gordon Brownville, Dr. and Mrs. Roland O. Hudson, Rev. and Mrs. H. Norman Korb, and the Washburns, previously mentioned. These faithful couples have greatly enriched this "fellowship of believers."

The Ladies' Aid beautifully refurbished the sanctuary with new carpeting, pew cushions, five reupholstered pulpit chairs, new Bibles, and window shades, as well as new carpeting on the two staircases. New red hymnals were given by members of the congregation. The parsonage was repaired where needed and almost completely redecorated, a patio added, the exterior painted . . . in great part by the "sweat" and expertise of the Property Committee and other individuals in the church. A new blacktop driveway and "turn-around" was laid, and landscaping done to make it truly a place of beauty, joy, and comfort for the new pastor and his family. Fine fellowship has been shared, as those who have done the work and those who have contributed so generously of their material resources, have worked toward common purposes.

Much has been done in the past year or so at the church building itself. A ramp was built up along side of the sanctuary so that those who find the stairs difficult may enter in this way. An emergency lighting system has been installed. A new, greatly expanded parking lot, which will now hold seventy cars, has been completed, and trees have been planted to enhance its appearance. At this writing, scaffolding has been erected, and painters have begun to paint the exterior of the church building, a much-needed endeavor. Recently members of the church painted the interior of the fellowship hall.

Pastor Has Wide Experience

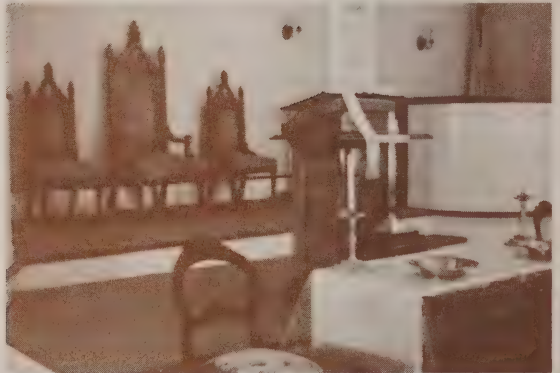
On April 1, 1973, Rev. Donald R. Mills came to Brewster with his wife, Shirley, and their two young boys, Kurt and Erik, to be pastor. He came from serving as senior pastor of a large downtown church in Elmira, New York, with the idea of being able to share life in a more manageable "people-centered" ministry than was becoming possible in that particular setting. He has come with varied experience in Christian Center work, Council of Churches work, inner-city ministry,

Brewster Baptist In the 1970's



View of Choir Loft

Reupholstered Pulpit Chairs



Brewster Baptist Church prior to Building of Expanded Parking Lot

and a broad scope of ecumenical experiences, including study at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland. Both he and Shirley, who incidentally is a professionally trained social worker, have shared deeply of themselves in small groups of prayer and personal growth.

Since Rev. Mills or “Don”, as most parishioners call him, arrived, the church has reorganized its space and have made it possible for there to be a Pastor’s Study. This has been completely redecorated and equipped. In January of this year, the congregation voted to provide a part-time secretary for the first time on a regular basis, because of the increasing needs. Fortunately, “Dot” Linnell, who had done much of the secretarial work for the past several years on a volunteer basis, agreed to fill this position. She and others still donate quite a bit of volunteer time as special needs occur. The congregation is responding to growth, new life, and new possibilities for service among His people.

As wonderful as all of the “physical” improvements are, they would mean very little in God’s Kingdom unless the facilities are viewed as “enabling” channels or vessels to be filled with loving, trusting, serving, growing “followers” of Christ. The Christian life, if rightly seen as a pilgrimage, both for individuals and for the corporate body of believers called the Church, first must be seen as imperfect . . . and so it must be mentioned that there are those occasional relationships which are broken and in which trust and love do not prevail . . . there are those issues that come before the church that do not have unanimous support of the total congregation . . . there is that fear of losing the beauty and quaintness of the village church of earlier years . . . there is that sense within some that needs to hold so tightly to what has been that it is not possible to appreciate what might yet be in God’s plans for them and for this church . . . So it has been down through the ages in the history of the Church . . . and so it is to some extent today here at Brewster Baptist.

And yet, even while recognizing individual and corporate weaknesses and realizing anew continued need for forgiveness and rededication, there is so very much to affirm now, in this 150th Anniversary Year . . . 1974! For one thing, there is a certain excitement that is sometimes felt and expressed by the congregation during worship and in small group meetings that seemingly can only be identified as the Holy Spirit “active in our midst”. There is beginning a new sense of seeking and desire for growing in God’s loving, forgiving framework of life. This is seen in the participation of a growing number in worship, study

groups, and in retreat opportunities. During the year, there have been two Bible Study groups, a prayer group, an ecumenical “discovery” group, a day-long retreat shared with other Cape Baptists, and a recent week-end Faith-at-Work Conference, attended by five from this church, from which a new “sharing” group is emerging.

Missionary Involvement Grows

Another deeply significant sign-post is the growing interest in “mission,” seen in the generosity of financial support of mission programs and in the reaching out in new ways to those who are on the “church’s doorstep”. One obvious example of this type of reaching out can be seen in the increased involvement of more of the congregation in the lives of the children from the Rehabilitation Centers mentioned earlier, and their increased involvement in the life of the church. The Church School class for these children has grown much under the creative and faithful dedication of Evelyn Beal. Some of the youngsters are singing in the youth choir and are attending church services more frequently. A second important area of “mission outreach” during this year has been a ministry of visitation to the Rambling Rose Rest Home in Harwich. This program, ably co-ordinated locally by Helen Montgomery, has been a blessing to those who have been visited as well as to all who have participated.

Fellowship opportunities have been offered not only through the groups and retreats mentioned, but this church year has seen the holding of “Fellowship Night” pot luck suppers, which have been generally well-received each month. Another rich area of fellowship and sharing has been the broadening of ecumenical involvement, particularly with Our Lady of the Cape Roman Catholic Church here in Brewster and the Dennis Union Church. There has been regular fellowship among the pastors and a number of “shared” services and programs, including a Thanksgiving Eve Service, an Advent drama presentation, a service during the Week of Prayers for Christian Unity, a fellowship supper and deeply moving musical program at the beginning of Lent by a Roman Catholic priest, a presentation of “The Passion” by the Fisherman Players on Palm Sunday evening, an Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast...and there’s more to come!...including an ecumenical Vacation Church School.

Two other significant steps have been taken by the congregation in the past few months. First a new Constitution and By-Laws were written and approved. To a great extent, these specified on paper

much of the way the church has been operating, merely spelling it out more clearly. There has been some Board and Committee reorganization with the intent to enable the church as a whole to responsibly carry out its mission and to be in close communication with one another.

The Expansion Committee has been replaced by a Building Council, which is comprised of a broad representation of those who call Brewster Baptist their church. It is just beginning its task of consulting more specifically with the American Baptist Extension Corporation and drawing on its staff's expertise in helping to determine the program and ultimately the building needs to be recommended to the congregation, as it continues to feel more and more confined especially in the educational and fellowship facilities available.



Cross in Church chancel

A great many important decisions have been made in the past few years, and a great many more lie ahead. It seems significant, as this "picture" of Brewster Baptist Church of today is shared, that it should be rounded out and centered upon the "cross". The cross speaks to the Church and the world of "life". So it was fitting and a real blessing to have one of the church members, Fred Sawyer, make and present to the church on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973, a beautiful walnut cross for the chancel. The piece of wood from which it was carved was part of an old wardrobe, a family heirloom, which his family used for many years. As a child, his family moved from "flat to flat", where no closets



Newly Remodeled Kitchen



Parsonage Living Room

were available. After his father died in 1921, his family “broke up the house”; and Fred, recognizing the value of the black walnut wood, especially that which surrounded the center of the doors, knocked the wardrobe apart and kept it. He estimates the wardrobe to be at least 75 years old. He has carved out a wonderfully lasting and inspiring addition to the worship life of the Brewster congregation.



Parsonage-1974

Vision for the Future

“AT THAT TIME THE DISCIPLES CAME TO JESUS, SAYING, ‘WHO IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?’ AND CALLING TO HIM A CHILD, HE PUT HIM IN THE MIDST OF THEM, AND SAID, ‘TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS YOU TURN AND BECOME LIKE CHILDREN, YOU WILL NEVER ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WHOEVER HUMBLING HIMSELF LIKE THIS CHILD, HE IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. WHOEVER RECEIVES ONE SUCH CHILD IN MY NAME RECEIVES ME’ . . .”

Matthew 18:1-5

It would seem that the “vision” of the future will become clear to God’s people here at Brewster Baptist Church to the degree that we are able to become “child-like” as we are called in the scriptures to be. The rapid changes in the fast-growing community of Brewster and its surrounding towns, the necessity for expanding many services and facilities, the tension that emerges in a town facing heavy financial and building pressures, the rising cost of everything, the very human desire to return to the nostalgia of years gone by . . . and perhaps, most of all, the need for something that is unchanging and offers a sense of comfort and security . . . for these reasons, many look to the Church, and rightly so.

The difficulty comes when we lose sight of the fact that it is the “Head” of the Church and its “Good News” that is unchanging, rather than modes of expression, ways of serving, or even “structures”.

Truly Christ and his message of forgiveness, reconciliation, and freedom is and will always be unchanging and dependable. But the “vessels”, both human and structural, which he uses, must grow and find new expression. So it would seem that we must grow in our dependence upon God; we must grow in our appreciation of those who each new week come seeking our fellowship and an opportunity to serve a common Lord with us. We must learn to be grateful for the beautiful heritage and deep faith of those who have gone before us without smothering their “gifts” to us by holding them too tightly; and at the same time, we must open ourselves to the “present-day saints” that God is sending to us as a congregation. If we do one without the other, the beauty disappears . . . the vision dims . . . and we have lost the “gift”.

As this booklet draws to its close, I want to personally affirm the deeply moving experience and genuine joy it has been for me to search the “essence” of the archives and tremendous spiritual heritage and deeply abiding faith that has undergirded and sustained this unique “people of God”, known for these one hundred and fifty years as the Brewster Baptist Church. God’s Spirit blows breath in the lives of His people; and for those who open themselves to His will, the winds of change will no longer be as a storm or a raging sea, but as a gentle breeze, bending the sails of the “boat of life” in the way God wants it to go. Thanks be to God . . . and to His Son . . . and to His Holy Spirit. Amen.

“ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN YOU; SEEK AND
YOU WILL FIND; KNOCK, AND IT WILL BE
OPENED TO YOU. FOR EVERY ONE WHO ASKS
RECEIVES, AND HE WHO SEEKS FINDS,
TO HIM WHO KNOCKS, IT WILL BE OPENED.”

Matthew 7:7-8

Brewster Baptist Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We endeavor, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its growth and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute willingly and regularly of our time and money to the support of this church and its mission, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also endeavor to maintain family and personal devotions; to provide for the religious growth of our fellowship; to be diligent in our efforts to advance the kingdom of God; to walk uprightly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful to our responsibilities, and exemplary in our behavior; to show evidence of our Christian faith and belief in every area of life; to abstain from practices and habits that would be detrimental to our health, to our families, or to society.

We further agree to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation. We agree, that when we remove from this place, we will unite as soon as possible, with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

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